Non-Teaching Staff in Universities/Colleges

3504. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the non-teaching employees of Colleges and Universities have been left outside the purview of the University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that All India College and University Employees Federation have been Agitating for their inclusion within the purview of University Grants Commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by UGC, All India College and University Employees Federation had submitted a representation to the Commission for inclusion of non-teaching employees within the purview of UGC. Pay scales and service conditions of non-teaching employees of State Universities/Colleges are laid down by the concerned State Government/Universities. Laying down of uniform scales of pay for such personnel will lead to serous anomalies and difficulties as the overwhelming majority of such employees perform duties and responsibilities comparable to employees in other Departments of the State Governments. Similarly, there are long established 'Post to Post' and 'Scale to Scale' parties between such employees and various other categories of employees in other Departments. Disturbing the equilibrium will cause serious problems and dissatisfaction among various categories of employees within the States. In view of this, the Government is not in favour of laying down uniform scales of pay for non-teaching employees in Universities and Colleges under the State Governments.

Indo-China Relation

3505. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen our relations with China taking into account the developments that are likely to take place after the demise of their leader Deng Xiaoping;

(b) whether the border issue between India and China has been settled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) In recent years, India-China relations have developed steadily and acquired maturity and substance. The momentum of high level dialogue has been maintained and there is growing functional cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields. The two countries have agreed to work towards a constructive and cooperative relationship into the 21st century. Both sides have worked to remove institutional bottlenecks to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The volume of bilateral trade in 1996 reached US $ 1.4 billion. There are about 50 joint ventures between the two countries.

(b) and (c) India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) and India-China Expert Group (EG). The Agreements on Maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquillity signed in September, 1993 and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures signed in November, 1996 will contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

[Translation]

Mortgage of Ships

3506. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow the Indian Shipping Companies to mortgage their ships in order to mobilise funds from foreign sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions on which the Indian Shipping Companies are likely to be allowed to raise such funds; and

(d) the estimated quantum of loans likely to be mobilised and the role of Indian Shipping Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal in the Government to this effect, however, Section 47 to 54 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 permits mortgage of Indian ships for raising finance from India and Abroad. The terms and conditions for raising loan from abroad are negotiated between the lenders and the borrowers which are subject ot External Commircial Borrowings (ECB) guidelines. As per the projections made by the Working Group on Shipping for the 9th Plan External Commercial Borrowings to the tune of 500-700 US million dollar is required per year.